and new fishing techniques besides fish handling and processing aspects.

19. Govt. should take effective steps to tackle the menace of pollutants/effluents/ sewage let out by industries which affects marine life adversely.

20. Govt. should take a decision on the recommendations of the Committee within a period of six months.

21. The deep sea fishing policy should be revised periodically say every 3-5 years.

Proposals from Assam for establishment of food processing Industries

148. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals from Government of Assam are pending with the Ministry for establishment of Food Processing Industries in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage of maturity/execution of each of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) Most food processing industries except for brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale sectors have been delicenced. No approval is required from this Ministry for setting up these industries by the domestic entrepreneurs.

Since liberalisation, till December, 1995 four Industrial Entrepreneur memoranda involving an investment of Rs. 190 crores and employment of 205 persons have been filed for setting up food processing industries in the State of Assam. In addition, one approval has already been granted for setting up a food processing industry in Assam involving an investment of Rs. 15 crores including foreign investment of Rs. 1 crore and employment of 347 persons.

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has also provided financial assistance for setting up of various food processing industries in Assam. While some have been implemented most are in various stages of implementation. Action in respect of two proposals received from Assam seeking financial assistance has been initiated.

Rural Telephone Exchanges in Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi Districts

149. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICAIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many rural exchanges have been set up during the last five years in Bihar especially in Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi districrs;

(b) whether it is a fact that rural exchanges were proposed to be set up as back as in 1992 in the village named Kurlaiah in Aurar Block and Jamalabad Ashram, Musehri and Rajkhand in the District of Muzaffarpur; and

(c) the reasons for not installing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yearwise details for the last five years are given in the annexed statement. (*see* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.